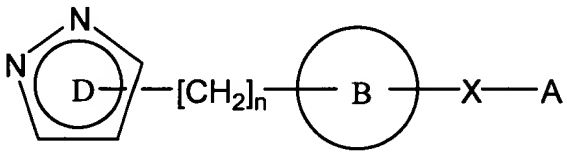
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A pyrazole compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(I)

wherein each symbol has the following meaning,

D: 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from the group consisting of –lower alkyl ("Alk"), –lower alkenyl, –lower alkynyl, halogeno–lower alkyl– , –cycloalkyl, –O–Alk, –COO–Alk and –halogen atom ("Hal"),

n: 0,

B: 1,4-phenylene or thiophene-2,5-diyl,

X: -NH-CO- or -CO-NH-, and

A: aryl which may have one or more substituents of group F; mono- or di-cyclic ~~mono-, di- or tri- cyclic~~ fused heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl,

thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, quinoxanyl, phthalazinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, quinazolinyl and cinnolinyl which may have one or more substituents of group F; cycloalkyl; or Alk, wherein the F group is: -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, -Hal, $-NH_2$, -NH(Alk), $-N(Alk)_2$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -OH, -O-Alk, -O-CO-Alk, -SH, -S-Alk, -COO-Alk, -CO-Alk, $-CONH_2$, -CONH(Alk), $-CON(Alk)_2$, -SO-Alk, $-SO_2$-Alk, and $-SO_2NH_2$,

with the proviso that,

(1) when D is 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl) –1H–pyrazo1–1–yl, n is 0, B is l,4–phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than 4–methyl–l,2,3–thiadiazol–5–yl,

(2) when D is 1–methyl–5–trifluoromethyl–1H–pyrazol–3–yl, n is 0, B is thiophene–2,5–diyl and X is CONH, A is a group other than 4-chlorophenyl,

(3) when D is 1H–pyrazol–l–yl, n is 0, B is 1,4–phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(4) when D is 3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(5) when D is 3-methyl-4-bromo-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(6) when D is 3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is CONH, A is a group other than methyl, and

(7) when D is 1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl, n is 0, B is thiophene-2,5-diyl and X is CONH, A is a group other than 3,3-dimethylbutyl.

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein

D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from –Alk, halogeno–lower alkyl– and –COO–Alk, and

A is phenyl which may have one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of –Alk, –Hal, $–NH_2$, $–N(Alk)_2$, $–NO_2$, –CN, –OH, –O–Alk and –COO–Alk; mono- or di-cyclic ~~mono-, di- or tri-cyclic~~ fused heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thienyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl and isoquinolyl, which may be substituted with one or more Alk; cycloalkyl; or Alk.

5. (currently amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group.

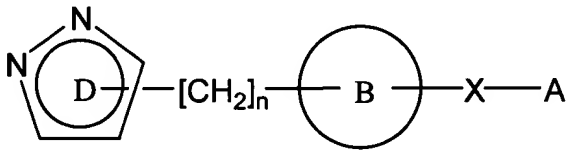
6. (previously amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein D is 1H-pyrazol-5-yl substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group or 1H-pyrazol-1-yl substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein D is 1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl and A is phenyl which may be substituted with Hal.

9. (previously amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein D is 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl and A is monocyclic heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl and pyridyl, which may be substituted with one or more Alk.

10. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pharmaceutically effective amount of a pyrazole compound represented by the following general formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier



(I')

wherein each symbol has the following meaning,

D: 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from the group consisting of –Alk, –lower alkenyl, –lower alkynyl, halogeno–lower alkyl– , –cycloalkyl, –O–Alk, –COO–Alk and –Hal,

n: 0,

B: 1,4-phenylene or thiophene-2,5-diyl,

X: -NH-CO- or -CO-NH-, and

A: aryl which may have one or more substituents of group F; mono- or di-cyclic ~~mono-, di- or tri- cyclic~~ fused heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, quinoxanyl, phthalazinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, quinazolinyl and cinnolinyl which may have one or more substituents of group F; cycloalkyl; or Alk, wherein the F group is: -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, -Hal, $-NH_2$, -NH(Alk), $-N(Alk)_2$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -OH, -O-Alk, -O-CO-Alk, -SH, -S-Alk, -COO-Alk, -CO-Alk, $-CONH_2$, -CONH(Alk), $-CON(Alk)_2$, -SO-Alk, $-SO_2$-Alk, and $-SO_2NH_2$,

with the proviso that

(1) when D is 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl) –1H–pyrazo1–1–yl, n is 0, B is l,4–phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than 4–methyl–l,2,3–thiadiazol–5–yl,

(2) when D is 1-methyl-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl, n is 0, B is thiophene-2,5-diyl and X is CONH, A is a group other than 4-chlorophenyl,

(3) when D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(4) when D is 3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(5) when D is 3-methyl-4-bromo-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than methyl,

(6) when D is 3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl, n is 0, B is 1,4-phenylene and X is CONH, A is a group other than methyl, and

(7) when D is 1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl, n is 0, B is thiophene-2,5-diyl and X is CONH, A is a group other than 3,3-dimethylbutyl.

11-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group.

16. (previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein D is 1H–pyrazol–5–yl substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group or 1H–pyrazol–1–yl substituted with at least one trifluoromethyl group.

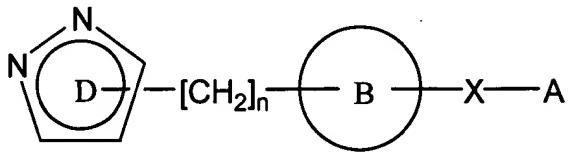
17. (canceled).

18. (previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein D is 1–methyl–3–trifluoromethyl–1H–pyrazol–5–yl and A is phenyl which may be substituted with Hal.

19. (previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein D is 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl)–1H–pyrazol–1–yl and A is monocyclic heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl and pyridyl, which may be substituted with Alk.

20-27. (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A method for treating bronchial asthma, which comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pyrazole compound represented by the following general formula (I')



(I')

wherein each symbol has the following meaning,

D: 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from the group consisting of –Alk, –lower alkenyl, –lower alkynyl, halogeno–lower alkyl– , –cycloalkyl, –O–Alk, –COO–Alk and –Hal,

n: 0,

B: 1,4-phenylene or thiophene-2,5-diyl,

X: -NH-CO- or –CO-NH-, and

A: aryl which may have one or more substituents of group F; mono- or di-cyclic ~~mono-, di- or tri- cyclic~~ fused heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, quinoxanyl, phthalazinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, quinazolinyl and cinnolinyl which may have one or more substituents of group F; cycloalkyl; or Alk, wherein the F group is: -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, -Hal, $-NH_2$, -NH(Alk), $-N(Alk)_2$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -OH, -O-Alk,

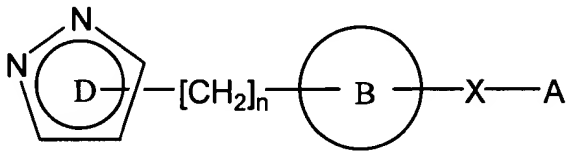
-O-CO-Alk, -SH, -S-Alk, -COO-Alk, -CO-Alk, $-CONH_2$, -CONH(Alk), $-CON(Alk)_2$, -SO-Alk, $-SO_2$-Alk, and $-SO_2NH_2$,

with the proviso that

when D is 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl) –1H–pyrazol–1–yl, n is 0, B is 1,4–phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than 4–methyl–1,2,3–thiadiazol–5–yl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an effective amount for treating said disease in a patient suffering from or susceptible to said disease.

29. (currently amended) A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis, which comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pyrazole compound represented by the following general formula (I')



(I')

wherein each symbol has the following meaning,

D: 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to ~~2~~3 substituents selected from the group consisting of –Alk, –lower alkenyl, –lower alkynyl, halogeno–lower alkyl– , –cycloalkyl, –O–Alk, –COO–Alk and –Hal,

n: 0,

B: 1,4-phenylene or thiophene-2,5-diyl,

X: -NH-CO- or -CO-NH-, and

A: aryl which may have one or more substituents of group F; mono- or di-cyclic ~~mono-, di- or tri-cyclic~~ fused heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, tetrazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, quinoxanyl, phthalazinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, quinazolinyl and cinnolinyl which may have one or more substituents of group F; cycloalkyl; or Alk, wherein the F group is: -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, -Hal, $-NH_2$, -NH(Alk), $-N(Alk)_2$, $-NO_2$, -CN, -OH, -O-Alk, -O-CO-Alk, -SH, -S-Alk, -COO-Alk, -CO-Alk, $-CONH_2$, -CONH(Alk), $-CON(Alk)_2$, -SO-Alk, $-SO_2$-Alk, and $-SO_2NH_2$,

with the proviso that

when D is 3,5–bis(trifluoromethyl) –1H–pyrazol–1–yl, n is 0, B is 1,4–phenylene and X is NHCO, A is a group other than 4–methyl–1,2,3–thiadiazol–5–yl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an effective amount for treating said disease in a patient suffering from or susceptible to said disease.

30. (previously amended) The pyrazole compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein

D is pyrazolyl which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, halogeno-lower alkyl-, -cycloalkyl, -O-Alk, -COO-Alk and -Hal,

B is 1,4-phenylene, and

X is –NH-CO-.

31. (previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pyrazole compound according to claim 10, wherein

D is pyrazolyl which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, halogeno-lower alkyl-, -cycloalkyl, -O-Alk, -COO-Alk and -Hal,

B is 1,4-phenylene, and

X is –NH-CO-.

32-34. (cancelled).

35. (currently amended) The method for treating bronchial asthma according to claim 28, wherein

D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from the group consisting of -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, halogeno-lower alkyl-, -cycloalkyl, -O-Alk, -COO-Alk and -Hal,

B is 1,4-phenylene, and

X is –NH-CO-.

36. (currently amended) The method for treating rheumatoid arthritis according to claim 29, wherein

D is 1H-pyrazol-1-yl, 1H-pyrazol-3-yl or 1H-pyrazol-5-yl, ~~pyrazolyl~~ each of which may have 1 to 2~~3~~ substituents selected from the group consisting of -Alk, -lower alkenyl, -lower alkynyl, halogeno-lower alkyl-, -cycloalkyl, -O-Alk, -COO-Alk and -Hal,

B is 1,4-phenylene, and

X is –NH-CO-.

37. (previously amended) The pyrazole compound 4'-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-4-methylthiazole-5-carboxanilide.

38. (previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pyrazole compound according to claim 10, wherein the pyrazole compound is 4'-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-4-methylthiazole-5-carboxanilide.

39-41. (canceled).

42. (previously amended) The method for treating bronchial asthma which comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pyrazole compound according to claim 28, wherein the pyrazole compound is 4'-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-4-methylthiazole-5-carboxanilide.

43. (previously amended) The method for treating rheumatoid arthritis which comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pyrazole compound according to claim 29, wherein the pyrazole compound is 4'-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-4-methylthiazole-5-carboxanilide.

44-47. (canceled).